

THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY

presents

CROSBY * POST

ON THE SEN-TI-MEN-TAL SIDE.

gay, laugh it off and say

"Fare - well," Say

in hopes you'll think it

o - ver And po

of per - son

ON THE SEN-TI-MEN-TAL SIDE.

der why I'm SIDE.

International Circulation *

 * THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY *
 * founded March 1950 *
 * *****
 * Honorary President; BING CROSBY 9229 Sunset Boulevard
 * Honorary Vice-Pres; LARRY CROSBY Los Angeles 69 - California.
 *

PRESIDENTS:

Frank Murphy, 45 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, Northumberland.
 Jack Manners, 8 Jardin Street, Camberwell, London S.E.5.

AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT:

Miss Pat Sullivan, 2905 Van Ness, Apartment =104, San Francisco
 California, U.S.A.

OUTSIDE PROJECTS:

Bill Hall, 11 Chichester Street, Gateshead 8, Co Durham.

PUBLICITY OFFICERS

NORTH

John Maughan, 1 Lauderdale Avenue, Wallsend, Northumberland

MIDLANDS

Frank Hatwell, 240 Gillicott Road, Birmingham 16.

SOUTH

Bob Roberts, 56 Thorold Road, Chatham, Kent.

DISC & MOVIE CONSULTANT:

Les Phythian, 30 Courtland Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool 18.

TAPE CROSBY

Fred Reynolds, 69 Heathmere Avenue, Birmingham 25.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Don Woolland, 151 Cauldwell Lane, West Monkseaton, Whitley Bay.

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Contributors please note that ALL material should be sent DIRECT to
 the Editor not later than the material deadline for the next issue.
 Material arriving later will be held over.

===== *Renewal due* =====

An X here X signifies that your renewal is now due - please forward
direct to JACK MANNERS making your cheque or P.O. payable to The British
 Crosby Society; British Isles 10/- Annually - Overseas Two Dollars/ 14/-;

=====

SINGING COMPETITION: Only four entries have so far been recieved - More
 are urgently required - send your entries direct to BOB ROBERTS by the new
 closing date of January 20th; ----- Hurry now!!!!

BING CROSBY

HOLLYWOOD

November 9, 1964

Dear Friends:

May the peace and joy of Christmas
be yours throughout the coming
year.

Sincerely,

signed BING

Bing Crosby

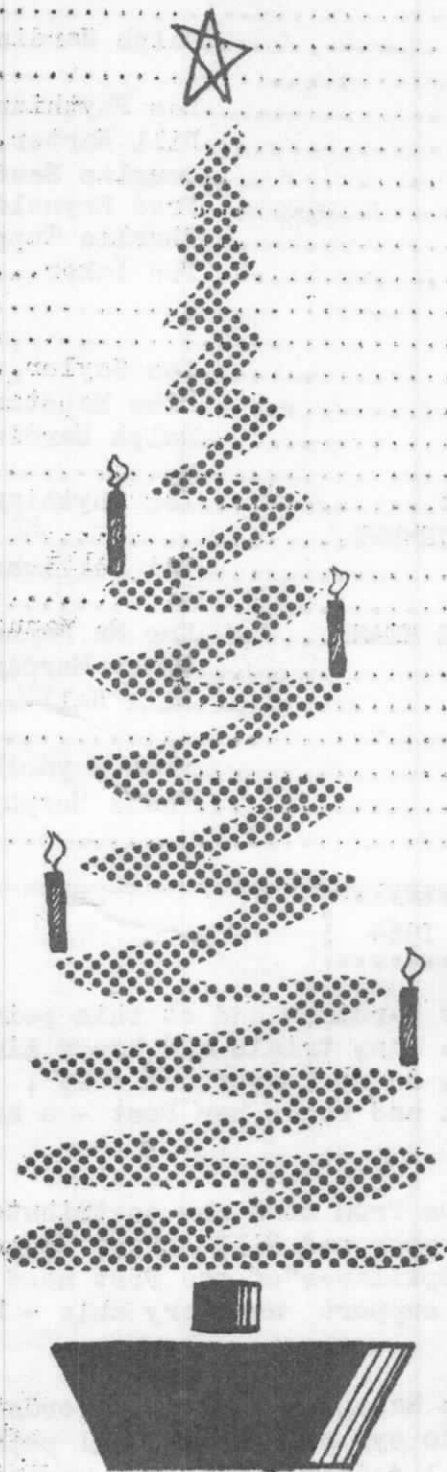
BC:ys

The clubs Officers extend to all their
members and friends throughout the
World sincere Christmas greetings -

"May your days be merry and bright
and may all your Christmasses be white"

DECEMBER

CROSBY POST



C.A. WESTROPE

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 * EDITORIAL - December 1964 *

In his Croztalk, Jack mentions our old friend Dot Hardiman and at this point I paused to recall the old days of the club - the many trials and happy times that Dot and I shared for many years - though she is no longer actively concerned with the club, Dot still keeps in touch and reads her Post - a happy and appreciated interest for us all.

It was good to receive some new material this time from some new contributors, I'm pleased people like Percy Harding, Charlie Tupper and Bill Harter opened up new sources of material - the regular 'Micky Spillanes' of the Post need support - this time I'm sure they will agree the support was very able - keep it coming.

It appears that some members disapprove of Ken Mc Manus gifts of records to the club - Ken will verify that I don't see eye to eye with him on all points of his topical articles - but on this point I will defend him to the maximum. A club of our limited resources can ill afford to lose such important concessions as those given us by Ken Mc Manus - so let's have hush from the thoughtless ones - well I must close now - space has run out. So until next time, my family joins me in extending sincere Christmas greetings to my many friends in England and overseas - - - Sincerely, Frank

Hello again,

A few days and christmas once again - but first to business and then to relax a little.

I do not wish to say much on the club meeting except to say that to both Kit and myself it was most enjoyable, our thanks to those of you who came along especially the 'night riders' from far away places. Two things I should mention resulting from the meeting. First a letter from Frank Grant in which he mentions the thrill he got in meeting some of the 'clan' in the flesh plus a tribute to Ralph Harding for the help he has given him to complete his com erial collection with I'VE GOT THE GIRL, also in many other ways.

Next item, you remember the raffle held at the meeting. All the prizes except one were claimed - the other winning ticket was number 84 - will the holder send it on to me and I will send on the E.P. - our thanks to Ken Mc Manus for donating the prizes for this raffle by the way.

At this point a welocme to new members and one in particular is Fred Tetlow who is doing a nice job free in putting an advert in his local paper for the club, as Fred puts it "How is it I did not know before of the existance of the club" - Well we can all do something about this by spreading the word arround - as we know there must be thousands of people around who are still keen on Bing - must mention also that Elsie Kennedy down in Watofrd and Charlie Tupper down inSurrey are also doing some great advertsing for the club - nice work.

The films the BBC will be putting on both channels in the near future will no doubt stimulate plenty of interest and we can help here by writing to the newspapers etc saying how much we enjoyed the films and at the same time mentioing the club - also by requesting the films songs on radio.

Recieved a nice letter from the clubs former Pres, Dot Hardiman who as most of you know is now living in America. Dot would like to hear from any members anytime. If anyone wants to write let me know and I will pass on Dot's current address, reason for this is that she has been moving around quite a bit recently.. Dot just missed Bing a few weeks ago in San Jose and was she choked. Better luck next time Dot.

The last few weeks have been very good for Bing on radio, in fact I would say excellent, I have heard him time and time again. One day alone Kit checked and heard Bing twice early morning, again at midday, and inthe evening we both heard him sing TEAMWORK on Roundabout - Bing is certainly holding his own,.

Memo to member Ian Arnott I am stilltrying to get a golf programme for you, no luck yet, If I don't succred I'll send some clippings - okay Ian!!

A favourite theme just now CROSBY AND CHRISTMAS - It's enough to make ones mouth water, this is at any rate the one time of the year that Bing dwarfs all comers. SILENT NIGHT on Christmas Eve and throughout the next day will be heard by most if not everybody in some part of the world, and almost sure to be the Crosby version- WHITE CHRISTMAS, that most simple song that so many singers have tried to put acrosss but failed merely because it is so simple

yet one which only Bing could do justice to. These two great numbers will for sure be played countless times over the holiday and it is surely a matter of pride and true enjoyment as we listen and even contemplate they will probably still be played a thousands years from now. I honestly believe Bing has made these two versions immortal. Then of course we have the gay carols which the maestro takes so effortlessly, the numbers JINGLE BELLS and THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS which featured the Andrews Sisters at their finest make up a fine Christmas package. But all in all, Bing so dominates the Christmas scene in all it's aspects that one could write a book and still miss out important itnes, I am still for instance confident that SECRET OF CHRISTMAS as originally sung by Bing would have been as great a hit as WHITE CHRISTMAS if featured in an earlier Crosby film. it rather lost it's impact in SAY ONE FOR ME which was not well recieved by the critics - thereby cutting down on the cinema going audiences. For Bing, SAY ONE FOR ME was quite a successful film, but supporting artists were weak, although in fairness to Debbie Reynolds and Robert Wagner the songs allotted to them were not much help.

The greatest Christmas LP by any artist is in my opinion A CHRISTMAS SING WITH BING on the Brunsiwck label - now this one is played every Christmas without fail around midday here at home, and I cannot help but give myself up to the beauty of this work - if ever the spirit of Christmas exuded from such a feast of carols as sung by Bing, then this album is a must for you also on the day.

Now to wind up, the cash for Bing and Kathryn's Christmas present has been duly spent and the gifts dispatched - for Bing an unusual type pipe rack, I think he will like this, for Kathryn an unusual Italian handbag - very eye catching. Here is the list of subscribers;

Ian Arnott 10/-; Jack & Betty Hale 10/-; Joan Walton 10/-; Laurence Thinkall 10/-
 Elsie Kennedy 10/-; Frank and Alma Murphy 20/-; Frank Grant 15/-; Les Gaylor 10/-
 Jack and Kit Manners 60/-; Kathleen Manners 10/-; Shirley Oldhampstead 10/-;
 Harold Hanke 5/-; Michael Crampton 5/-; Ted Laker 5/-; Yvonne Bowles 5/-;
 Eileen Waters 5/-; Arnold Dix 7/6; Madge Holmes 2/6; Ken Milford 2/6; Alma Johnson 2/6.....Grand total of £10-15-0

Thanks to all of you - till next time

HAPPY CHRISTMAS, LUCKY NEW YEAR - Jack.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Cordial greetings
 to the new members
 of our Crosby
 Circle -

 =====

Mr R Well, 65 Mantside Gdns, Whickham, Co Durham
 Mr Peter Wilson, 81 Union Str, Middlesbrough.
 Mr Donald Trewlett, Mount Trequites, Exwick, Exeter.
 Mr Fred Tetlow, 30 Cromer Str, Millbrook, Southampton.
 Mr Barry Morley, 76 St Margarets Rd, Hanwell, London W7.
 Mr George Smith, 5 Exley Rd, Keighley, Yorks.
 Mr Norman Cox, 14 Morland Rd, East Croydon, Surrey.
 Mr J Patience, c/o "Diane" Nelson Ave, Minster, Sheerness,
 Kent.

Donations to club funds:

Mr Dean 10/-
 Grateful thanks to club members Frank Grant 10/-
 Michael Crampton 5/-
 Bill Bell 14/-

PUZZLE CORNER
 =====
 Calling all X-WORD puzzlers, quiz-kids and all those who like to stir the old
 grey matter around for EX-ercise and relaxation. Sorry about the last issue
 that skipped the PUZZLE CORNER and answers to the last X-Word. As they say "Due
 to circumstances over which we had absolutely no control, we regret that"
 The omission will be rectified later. Well now, below you will find another
 Crossword rather tougher than the last. But panic not ... Fred Reynolds (noted
 solver of puzzles and late of M15 Crypto Dept.) completed this toughie in less
 than an hour (after having a preview) notwithstanding the fact that I failed to
 give him one clue. How can you beat guys like that ...! Incidentally Fred will
 be a guest puzzler in the next issue, submitting his own X-Word composed many
 moons ago. A good one too! Now, the answers to the last puzzle.
 DOWN

DOWN

1	LIFE	13	STARRY
2	TRIP	14	TROT
3	IN A POD	15	FOUND
4	HAT	17	FOG
5	SKY	20	GROANS
7	AREA	22	GALA
9	LOVE	24	DEVIL

SPACE FILLER

Three Minute Quiz
(Two marks for each,
8 or over, you're a
wise guy ...!)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
L	O	V	E	T	H	Y	N	I	B
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
I	N	A	B	O	O	R	O	P	E
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
L	E	L	R	A	N	C	H	O	E
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Y	S	L	A	Y	E	R	O	A	S
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
O	W	E	N	E	V	E	R	L	E
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
F	E	Y	O	D	E	L	N	S	H
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
L	E	S	T	E	R	A	S	H	A
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
A	T	T	E	N	D	Y	O	A	G
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
G	L	A	D	N	E	S	S	J	A
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
H	E	R	W	I	N	E	U	L	E
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
N	T	E	A	S	T	E	R	S	E
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
A	T	E	R	F	R	O	M	T	I

1. Who is the odd person out?
 (a) DEAM MARTIN (b) SINATRA
 (c) SCHNOZZLE DURANTE (d) COMO
 (e) BING CROSBY (d) LANZA
 (f) BARBRA STREISLAND (g) LANG

2. WHY ?
3. Bing once cost William Randolph Hearst a lot of money ... Why and how?
4. How much money?
5. What was the original title of the film "Going My Way"?

ANSWERS (Upside down)

- (1) Bing Crosby
(2) The others are of Italian descent or parentage.
(3) Bing was paid on a weekly-payment basis for his role in "Going Hollywood" and not the usual "fixed" sum.
(4) \$2,000 per week for six months.
(5) The Padre (two episodes)

ACROSS

- ACROSS
1. and 14 DOWN. Bing might sing this to his race-horse (3 words, 4-3-5)
 6. It's certainly quiet and seemingly not short
 10. Where Bing found what he was reading about (3 words, 2-1-4)
 13. A Part of Kassim's command!
 15. Sounds like a Spanish nobleman but it's mine sings Bing (2 words, 2-6)
 19. Included in that Christmas feeling
 20. Lizzie Borden was one ... ask her Mum and Dad
 22. Did Bing and Bob find one on the Road To Morocco?
 23. You'll find it where the rainbow ends

ACROSS (continued)

24. When to be scared according to Bing. 25. Needed to get your kicks on Route 66
 26. Part of a western Father Christmas? 27. He does this to taunt her sings Bing
 29. More money in the bank? 30. The showman could have said this to an introvert
 32. Les Gaylor was described by Mello and McBride. 34. Found in Tallahassee?
 35. Sounds like St. Francis greeting young lovers.
 37. If you want to assist, batten down the hatches.
 39. and 5 DOWN. Add a bottle of rum for a pirate label (2 words)
 41. It's lengthy and far away. 42. Unity Mitford sez you have it if you're "U"
 43. The Ink Spots loved this jive. 45. Stuart and Trudy have this in common.
 47. My old man said follow the van. 49. Describes an island and a Bing song.
 50. This was the last part of Johnny's name. 52. See No. 2 DOWN.
 53. You'll find it in the song Conchita, Marchita, Pepita Lopez (playfully backward)

DOWN

1. She can feel her heart go pit-a-pat (3 words)
 2, 52 and 31 DOWN. Would Bing sing this to his very good friend the Mail-
 Man without the "Fats" touch? (5 words, 3-5-6-4-3)
 3. Suddenly you find this. 4. You're the top ... well almost!
 5. See 39 ACROSS. 6. Same as 29 ACROSS.
 7. The last part of a song title associated with a dream paradise (2 words)
 8. Singularly goes with mother ... or is this a complete fantasy?
 9. Bing's never been twenty four hours away from here.
 11. Supporting actress like Jane Mansfield.
 12. City that describes a man named Jones ... or was it an Irishman?
 14. See 1 ACROSS. 16. Hoots Mon confirmation?
 17. The same as 24 ACROSS and strangely enough both together describe a land.
 18. Dilemma a swing band trumpet section could easily meet.
 21. Mix up 20 ACROSS for a radio transmission coast to coast.
 24. Toned down but not musically in order.
 28. Named after Bing's Mother's Father so tis written.
 30. Frank Sinatra would say this story is a gas! 31. See 2 DOWN
 33. You would too if the Emperor wore no clothes. 36. World revolving emotion.
 38. Part of the incident at Roger's Creek.
 40. When the champ knocked hell out of the loser in Crosby's "Great John L"
 43. One of those things could be an echo
 44. A devine actor with Bing aided his old movies
 46. Brother Bob played his part in this ... so did Bing and many others.
 47. Take away the wit, Bob. 48. Take a half of Bing's song and divide by seven.
 52. Long playing record found in Shepherd's-Bush Market?

Several readers had a crack at the X-word compiled for the MARCH POST (answers printed at the beginning) and apart from the afore mentioned Birmingham lad (who always seems to get them right but we hope to beat him yet!) special mention must be made of Arnold Pope who sent in a solution with just one error. Arnold writes to tell me that he and his wife spend many happy hours trying to complete the Cross-words. Well if it gives you pleasure and relaxation Arnold, that's reward indeed for the brain-tacking hours I spend trying to compile them. Well now, as we didn't have a PUZZLE CORNER in the last issue, I'm sure that our long-suffering Editor won't mind if I extend this corner just a little. Coming up now is a completely imaginary scene in a recording studio. Imagine that this actually happened and try and spot the deliberate mistakes. There are FIFTEEN deliberate mistakes or incorrect statements. The answers are given at the end ... but before you look at them, have a crack at the problem.

CAN YOU SPOT THE DELIBERATE MISTAKES

Bing strolled into the Los Angeles Recording Studios, pushed his hat on the back of his head and sank into an adjacent chair. Frank Sinatra slouched over, stubbed out his cigarette and greeted him,

"Howdy Bingo, many happy returns of the day, Dad."

Glancing at the calender on the studio wall and noting that it was the tenth of May 1949, Bing replied with a smile,

"Yep Frankie, that makes me 48 years old today and I still feel good. By the way Frank, I saw your press agent today Sam Jackson and he suggested that we could cut a record together sometime."

"Good old Sam" replied Frank, "Say, why don't we do this new number "Sam's Song" ... for our old buddy-buddy Sam, heh?"

"That's out Frank, my boy Gary will be 16 in a couple of month's time and we hope to cut a disc or two together. He hasn't made a record with me yet, I'm looking forward to our first and that song will definitely be the one!"

"Too bad Bingo, well what are ya gonna record today?"

"Well I thought about making a record of "Zing A Little Zong" with Jane Wyman but I guess Jane can't make it today so we'll have to leave it for a while."

"Keeping ya busy eh Bing?"

"Naw pal, I haven't done much this year in the Recording Studios but I had a pretty busy time with Decca last year ..."

Bing broke off to shout greetings to Patti Andrews who had just entered the studio with Victor Young and Vic Schoen. Bing turned to Frank and said,

"Great guy Victor ... fine musician ... used to play piano with Ben Pollack's Californians back in 1926. That was before Benny Goodman joined the band. Ben is another great musician and I like recording with him and his band. Tell me Frank, are you doing any recording lately ..."

"Yep pal, I was in the studios only a few days ago recording with Rosemary Clooney. We made a peach of a number together called "Peachtree Street" if you'll pardon the pun, and she's quite a gal is our Rosie, quite a gal."

"You can say that again Frank, we've made a few good records together ... or are you forgetting Frank"

"No, I'm not forgetting ... what's lined up for today Bingo?"

"Well Frank, I'm making two Christmas numbers with the Andrews Sisters and Vic Schoen's Orchestra and four numbers with Victor Young."

"Christmas numbers in the Spring, Bing?"

"Well, you know how it is Frank. I recorded an Irish ballad "Isle Of Innisfree" just before Christmas and anyway I'm doing "Sunshine Cake" with the Andrews Sisters today and such a title fits in with the weather."

"Well Bingo, here's me to work my friend, all for grits and gravy ...bye Bingo."

"Bye for now Frank, I'll be seeing ya."

On second thoughts, we'll publish the answers in the next issue. And just to show there's no ill-feeling, I'll give a half-guinea to the first person to send me an all-correct solution. Remember, FIFTEEN errors of statement or fact in this imaginary scene.

That's all for now ... there's a great CORNER competition in the next issue with cash or records as prizes (and take my word for it, this competition is different!)

And there's nothing left to do but to wish you all a HAPPY, SWINGING, BINGING, QUIZZING CHRISTMAS.



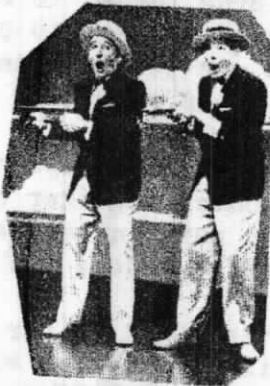
Lunching with Bing Crosby between "Just For You" scenes. "It was a holiday doing this picture with Bing."



Highlight of the "Bridge on the River Kwai" Hollywood preem last December was the entrance of the Crosbys, making their first public appearance as Mr. and Mrs. And Kathy was radiant!



Bing sticks his neck out in our picture from behind the shapely shoulder of Rosemary Clooney. The clown on the other side is Danny Kaye.



Bing Crosby



A Quarterly Miscellany of Crosbyana - by LES PHYTHIAN

First things first, which means this column must perforce lead off with a note or two concerning the highly enjoyable Club Meeting held at Jack Manners' home on 19th September last. It was an unusually cordial get-together; a cheerful, talkative affair, as such occasions tend to be, with a continuous selection of fine Crosby vocals from all periods - via tape and disc - providing an added dimension of warm enjoyment to the entire evening. I should mention, too, that the occasion was enriched by what seemed to be a virtually non-stop supply of excellent refreshments laid on by Jack's apparently tireless wife Kit. After an event of this kind, when it was so very pleasant to meet everyone present, it might appear a trifle invidious to start naming names. All the same, it was more than nice to see Jack and Kit again; to resume lively, colourful natters with my good friend and hard-working colleague Ralph Harding (and to greet that indefatigable Bing collector from Scotland, Frank Grant, who happened to be staying with Ralph at the time); to share a handshake, a talk and a laugh with those intrepid travellers, Frank Murphy and Bill Hall; to chat with Bob Roberts, Frank Hatwell, Terence Thompson and, briefly, Derek Parkes who was obliged to leave quite early in the evening. A real pleasure, as well, to meet Ted Laker at long last - after all those letters! - and Mike Crampton, our young and enthusiastic friend from Leeds. Altogether, Mike's presence at the Meeting struck me as a most encouraging sign in a rather special sense. Not to labour the point unduly, the mere sight of the youthful Crampton features in the midst of this somewhat mature gathering of Crosby 'old hands' (inevitably, many of the pioneering types - including the writer - have by this time come to have much in common with Bing in the region of what we might diplomatically refer to as 'the receding hair-line') caused me to reflect, thankfully, that at least some younger members of the community are capable of using their ears and exercising their powers of discernment in a day and age seemingly intent upon manufacturing ever increasing quantities of noisy rubbish in the thoroughly degraded name of 'pop' music. But I digress..... Obviously this occasion could not have been such a huge success without all the hard graft put in by Jack and Kit in organizing things so smoothly and well; indeed my only regret was that Fred Reynolds was unable at the last moment to make the journey from Birmingham to join the happy throng. Better luck next time, Fred.

Shortly after my September notes were written I had an opportunity to see Robin and the Seven Hoods at a pre-release run in Southport, and I must say the film seemed to me a good deal more entertaining than had been suggested in any of the press reviews. A trifle overlong, perhaps, but with dialogue that was generally bright, a lively score and good performances from all concerned - with Peter Falk, as a singularly shifty gang-leader, stealing the acting thunder from everyone else. An hour or so had passed before Bing put in an appearance disguised as the eccentric Allen A. Dale, but none can gainsay that proceedings took on an extra lease of life following his belated arrival on the scene. There are many delightful routines and, as we already knew from the LP disc, some fine songs to be heard - especially from Mr. C. I'm not attempting to deal with Robin and the Seven Hoods at any length here because I understand that Ted Laker will be contributing a review of the film in this issue of POST - but one or two points remain to be made about REPRISE R2021. Clearly these are studio reworkings of the principal numbers, as there are many noticeable differences to be heard on the sound-track itself. Also, the order of the songs as presented on disc is more than a little misleading - for instance "My Kind of Town", the first vocal track on the record, doesn't crop up until almost the end of the film - while Sinatra's other feature number on the LP, "I Like To Lead When I Dance", is not heard at all! At least, it was conspicuously absent from the version I saw at Southport..... Finally, it's most pleasant to be able to confirm that "Mister Booze" (an example of contemporary Crosby 'par excellence') is unquestionably the outstanding sequence in the movie.

It's a fairly safe assumption that those who have formed the habit of listening closely to Bing's recordings over the years will possess a built-in appreciation of fine melody coupled with a ready response to a meaningful lyric. (Sometimes the emphasis may be on one aspect rather than the other, but every now and then a song is encountered in which the ideal marriage of words and music has taken place). So it seems reasonable to infer that most of the people likely to be reading these jottings will have mourned the recent death of that master craftsman in the medium of popular music, Cole Porter. There is no need to list Porter's many unique contributions to the repertory of superior popular songs - happily the majority of them are destined to remain among the best-loved of all 'standards' - and there can be no possible doubt that the world of entertainment has lost yet another of its irreplaceable giants. The press paid generous and, for the most part, well-informed tributes on his passing - with one notable exception. Try as I may, I find it impossible to forgive Mike Nevard, writing in the SUN, for indulging in this piece of sickening conformist drivel:-

" Cole Porter was the Lennon-McCartney-Lionel Bart of the twenties, thirties and forties - and still an influence in the fifties and sixties. "

Just how consciously, preposterously 'with it' can you get??!

Mention of the great songwriter prompts me to remark that a couple of months ago I was privileged to revisit M-G-M's High Society, which enjoyed a limited reissue in these parts. I am, of course, well aware that much dissatisfaction was expressed by some Bing enthusiasts when this film first appeared in 1956 and I have always been at a loss to understand the reasons for this. To me, High Society represents an entirely successful fusion of many remarkable talents, a good story, intelligent script and, yes, a most pleasing and distinctive score which, if not vintage Porter, at least contains much that is tuneful and memorable. Add to this one of Frank Sinatra's more attractive portrayals, a couple of character 'gems' from Celeste Holm and the late Louis Calhern - and lots of the incomparable Bing at his elegant, insouciant best..... Bing's effortless singing of "Little One" and "I Love You, Samantha", his work in the clever "Well Did You Evah?" duet and, best of all, his terrific collaboration with Louis Armstrong's All Stars on "Now You Has Jazz" - these things I can never tire of seeing and hearing. At all events, this was my fourth encounter with C. K. Dexter-Haven and his well-heeled Newport confreres and I admit, quite unashamedly, to having enjoyed every moment of it.

A word of explanation, necessarily brief, to those Members who heard (either through the medium of Tape Crosby or via that sturdy, ever-active plant, the 'collectors grapevine') that some time ago I was actively engaged in compiling a booklet devoted to Bing's films, and who might be slightly perplexed at its apparent failure to materialize. (It was originally intended to aim at publishing the booklet, through the Society, in time for this Christmas; hence it seems appropriate to bring the story up to date now). Let me summarize as follows:- Phase 1. Having prepared a rough draft of the work I wrote to Bing outlining my plans and received a most enthusiastic response, in the course of which he said he would be delighted to provide a Foreword for the booklet. Phase 2. Only at this stage did I discover that Fred Reynolds had been working along similar lines, quite independently, for some time. This being so, it seemed only sensible that Fred and I should pool our resources with the object of producing an even more exhaustive compilation than either might have achieved individually. Phase 3. From discussions arising out of this development it became abundantly clear that fellow-researchers, Bob Roberts and Ralph Harding, also had valuable contributions to make in this sphere. Phase 4. It has therefore been decided that the projected Movie Booklet will appear at some future date, but as a 'team' production in the same way as the Bing Discography has been tackled. Announcements will be made, when appropriate, in this magazine.

Here's a bit of information that I know will be of interest to fellow members of CROSBY POST. The Toledo Recorded Music League has recently completed a popularity poll to determine who the greatest all time singer is. Members and music enthusiasts throughout the United States and Canada partook in the balloting. Here are the results;-

- 1..BING CROSBY.....678
- 2..AL JOLSON.....483
- 3..ENRICO CARUSO....428
- 4..MARIO LANZA.....406
- 5..PERRY COMO.....316

These results truly prove that with the exception of a very few, the careers of most singers are usually short lived ones - swift in their ascension and equally swift in descension. But there has been no such rise and fall in the career of Bing Crosby. It's almost unbelievable that nearly 40 years have slipped by since Bing first sang with the Whiteman band, but those years have had no dimming effect on the sparkle that is characteristic of Bing Crosby. The same informal personable charm that endeared him to millions of radio listeners in the early thirties is still today winning audiences whenever his voice is heard.

You may have heard about the incident that happened to Bing while entertaining the troops during World war II - but in case you hav'nt, here it is;-

While Bing was in London the OWI scheduled him to broadcast to Germany, where he was known as "Der Bingle" - He then crossed the channel to sing for the soldiers whenever and wherever possible. He came so close to the front lines that he once 'temporarily "captured" a town from the Germans.

"It was after Mass one morning" Bing relates, "A lieutenant and I started out in a jeep for the front. It was raining hard and pretty soon we were all by ourselves in the wilderness. The rain had washed the lettering of some of the road signs, but we just kept on going. Finally we came to the little town of V-. It was awfully quiet, no soldiers or civilians. We decided then that we were lost. so we turned around and headed back"

That night when Bing was dining with the General in command of the area. the Commander asked him where they had been that day.

"Well, we got as far as V-"

"You could'nt have gone there" The general replied, "The Germans still have it".

"Well, we had it for a little while" Bing answered.

a few copies of the following are available from Bill Hall at Outside Projects;

Discography of the BING'S HOLLYWOOD Album set by Bob Roberts -	price 2/3 (50 cents)
Discography of Bing's V Discs by the discography team -	" 2/3 (50 cents)
"The Road to Dublin by George O' Reilly - the story of Bing's eventful visit to Ireland in 1961	" 4/4 (75 cents)

"THE RESOLUTE ONES"

Amid the hoarse cries of warring protagonists the neurotic battleground of popdom is littered with the dead and dying. The contenders who had their brief joust with glory, the ones who never made it at all. For though many may be called to the transient terrain of the hit parade, few are chosen to remain.

It is a curious paradox that the greatest and, above all, the most durable singers are rarely to be found in this frenetic jungle - so it is that I give you you a nap hand of stars whose glitter is independent of the shifts and fads of Tin Pan Alley adulation. Five resolute fellows who were in the room at the top before the Great Idolatry started, are still there and will be there when it is all over.

Forward then, Messrs. BING CROSBY, DEAN MARTIN, PERRY COMO, FRANK SINATRA and TONI BENNETT. In that order so far as your columnist is concerned - Upon each and every one is the stardust magic of high talent, flawless taste and innate musicianship.

I can see that this may annoy those Tyneside readers who would unhesitatingly rate Sinatra second or even first. They are entitled to their opinion. But so, no less, am I. D.E.

* TAPE CROSBY by FRED REYNOLDS *

As you will have seen from the announcement in the September issue of POST, I have now succeeded Stan White as the Organiser of "Tape Crosby". The tape was Stan's brain child and he inaugurated it some 7 or 8 years ago since when it has given much pleasure to a lot of people. Through the medium of the tape close ties have been formed between friends with a common interest and hobby, all of whom are appreciative of Stan's excellent efforts.

When I knew the tape might have to be abandoned because Stan had so much other work I offered to continue it and have been gratified by the good wishes and promises of co-operation from all concerned.

"Tape Crosby" itself consists of two tapes, one being the last completed round and the other the current round on which participants record their news, views, music etc. We exchange the latest Crosby information and

there are some notable contributions from "talented members; believe me until you have heard an item such as "Serenade on a Ferrograph" (by someone I shall mercifully allow to remain anonymous) you just hav'nt lived, to say nothing of Ralph Harding's interview with Bing on an occasion when neither of them were present.

But it's not all frivolity and we get serious reviews and debates, contributions from abroad and even the occasional message from Bing.

All this is free (the only cost is the postage) and I have space for a couple more on the tape - first come - first served - so if anyone is interested, write to me - - quickly.

May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year ---

* Did you know that sales of Bing's *
* WHITE CHRISTMAS were now way over *
* 20,000,000 copies sold ----- *

I5

"MEET
THE
MEMBERS
NUMBER
ONE"

Here's a new feature - members are invited to send in their personal stories for this section, and opening the series is CHARLIE TUPPER of 43 Pams Way, Surrey.
Charlie heads his story;-

BUYING BING ON A small budget OR WITHOUT THE WIFE KNOWING

Having been to many British Crosby Society meetings it is always interesting to hear different members talking about their own Bing collections - many have vast ones collected over the years, others, just a few treasured 78's, and the best of Bing's LP's and EP's.

Having a home of my own and a family to support I often wonder how some of them can afford to purchase the large amount of material they possess, also, having got it, how can they ever settle down to enjoy it. My sympathy goes to the small collector, after all the price of the average LP is 32/- and tape rather more, that's if they are fortunate to own a tape recorder, though I think these are the ones who actually enjoy their collections more, I don't mean Bing generally, after all we all do that regardless of how many records we possess.

I know from experience how frustrating it can be with little funds available to purchase all we want by Bing - Issues may seem to be very few, but to keep up with them is still a problem even if it does mean Bing or the rates, but then we Crosbyites will never be satisfied, even if we cannot afford all the records we still like to see them issued.

I remember when I first left school, it was my cherished ambition to buy a gramophone and collect records. Having always liked Bing, but too young to appreciate his voice earlier, it was natural that my first thought was to collect his records. At last came the day - having got the gram, away I went to the chain stores, who in those days always had a large supply of Bing 78's in their familiar cover of red with the wording "Follow the stars on Brunswick". Home I came with a copy of WHITE CHRISTMAS - it seems a worthy choice now looking back, having become the best seller of all time.

Then I was enlisted to do my national service. During this time I had a box under my bed especially for records and I used to collect them, one every pay day at various shops - I worried the life out of them (and still do) for the monthly lists of new records, this would always set me up, because in those days, 1946-48, Bing issues were two or three each month, sometimes a special issue of about 20 (to my horror) but secret pleasure - then I used to carefully carry the box home with me every few weeks when on leave and have a good old Bing session. It took a bit of patience waiting though..

I remember the pleasure I got at that time when I first discovered a complete page of Bing issues in the Columbia catalogue, shows how green I was, I thought Brunswick was the only Bing label at that time - however I managed to get a copy of most of them before they were deleted, but I was beaten by the Brunswicks, it was financial ruin trying to catch up on all the issues in their catalogue.

It was not until I got married that I found out how different it could be to collect records and run a home at the same time, pay the bills and satisfy the wife, those of you in a similar predicament will know what I mean - out comes a new LP and then the problem, how to get round the wife - or, past her ---once in the collection she will never know - or will she,.....

Turn to page I6 for more of Charlies tale "problems of the coniving collector"

almost as hot as the newspaper headlines.

The subject matter is certainly good for spoofing, though for various reasons this current film does 'nt always rise to the occasion, veteran actor Edward G Robinson makes a brief appearance in the first few minutes of the film to add Authenticity to the proceedings, before meeting a sudden end.

First half of the film deals with the rival gansters clashing in their fight to control the rackets, and much dry humour and droll wisecracks are thrown around by Sinatra and his henchmen, when by a quirk of fate, around the films halfway mark, Sinatra becomes a kind of modern day Robin Hood through some money of his having wound up in a charitable organisation - the scene is set for Bing to put in an appearance.

Quite a slow, deceptive entrance, first with a brief spot ogling the news sheets at a newstand, later he is talked into working with the gang on their newly formed charity project. This gives a cue for a song, by at first the duo of Sinatra and Martin on the subject of Style, with Bing having been bundled into a wardrobe to find some kind of suitable attire for a big club opening night. He is revealed in the course of the song in a varied assortment of fetching outfits, finally stepping out in the familiar guise of a song and dance man, takes a brief solo, proving that he's no stooge, then is joined by Frank and Dean, once more also having got themselves attired in fashionable Vaudeville gear, then they all go into a lively routine to give the number a rousing finish.

Another feature for Bing is maybe a little over sentimental, but the sort of thing that Crosby can put over well, performed with a juvenile chorus, is "Don't be a do-badder", a dance routine of a nifty nature is worked into this number. Many an artist could fall down on this sort of scene, but not Crosby who is a past master of working with youngsters, and makes this catchy tune a worthy interlude in the proceedings.

On the opening night of the new night spot promoted by the Sinatra syndicate a raid by rival mobsters is forestalled. By means of various ingenious devices such a sliding doors, walls, reversitle tables etc the club takes on the appearance of a decrepit mission hall, with the reverend Bing Crosby presiding in word and song during a sermon on the evils of "Mr Booze". He is very ably supported by the other leading lights of the cast for this rousing riotous sequence, with clever lyrics, tambourines clashing, shouts of "Hallelulyah and all the other elements that go with a revival meeting and providing what has proved to be for many of us the high spot of this colourful film. Bing is certainly in his element and makes the most of his chances during this sequence.

This film, whatever else people may think of it, has provided us with the kind of Bing performance that we don't seem to get nearly enough of these days, working with stars, who may not be everyones cup of tea, though they are probably more in the public eye with their clan activities, and also are favoured with articles on their record output, has certainly got the casual Crosby to pull the few extra tricks out of the proverbial bag.

concluded on page 18

ted laker continues
THE MAGIC VOICE

He doesn't seem to put a foot wrong during his performance, and in fact without meaning too, almost apologetically walks away with the film.

The picture as a whole may not be outstanding, but the Crosby spots have certainly set people talking, and I hope all readers of the Post make a point of seeing this gangster-comedy-musical when it reaches their area.

Now to finish with Christmas greetings to all the clubs hard working officials and the members

 Editors Note;

Our thanks to Ted for another fine film cameo and whilst on the subject of ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS, I would remind you that the great set of action photos from this film are still available from the clubs OUTSIDE PROJECTS - the set is of five great shots all featuring Bing prices as follows:-

Set of 5 postcards 5/- (50 cents)

Set of 8" X 10" 15/- (2 Dollars)

Order now from Bill Hall.

 IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CLUB MEMBERS

Due to rising printing and other costs it is regretted that it is no longer possible to continue printing members free adverts in Crosby Post - Will all members please therefore note the following scale of charges which must be enclosed with any advertising material that is sent to the editor.

FULL PAGE 20/- + for anything less
 HALF PAGE 10/- + than a quarter page
 QUARTER " 5/- + a minimum charge.2/6

NORTHERN AREA PLANS FOR 1965

In July 1964 the Northern group held it's first film show and since then has grown in strength and in numbers - our official headquarters at ACA HEADQUARTERS CLOTH MARKET (next to Balbra's Old Tyme Music Hall) NEWCASTLE ON TYNE is now the scene for a great monthly Crosby event and here for your guidance is the 1965 programme to August of that year. All meetings being scheduled for the last Sunday of every month. Doors open 6.30 Commence 7p.m.

SUNDAY JANUARY 31st

Tape and Disc session - tickets 2/-

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28th

Tape and disc session PLUS film
 HERE COMES THE GROOM - tickets 4/-

SUNDAY MARCH 28th

Tape and disc session - tickets 2/-

SUNDAY APRIL 25th

Tape and disc session PLUS film
 LITTLE BOY LOST - tickets 4/-

SUNDAY MAY 30th

Tape and disc session - tickets 2/-

SUNDAY JUNE 27th

Tape and disc session PLUS film
 RIDING HIGH - tickets 4/-

SUNDAY JULY 25th

Tape and disc session - tickets 2/-

SUNDAY AUGUST 29th

Tape and disc session PLUS film
 MAN ON FIRE - tickets 4/-

Future presentation include the following films - BELL'S OF ST' MARY'S: JUST FOR YOU: HIGH SOCIETY: ANYTHING GOES Plus any other Crosby films that our hard working ACA Secretary Mr George Cummings manages to locate for us.

Particularly gratifying has been the increasing numbers of children who come along with their parents The children of course being admitted at half price at all sessions. Advance tickets for the above dates are available from Frank Murphy

To
Fred & Jane
Best Wishes
Bing Crosby



P1452-1335

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BING CROSBY in PARAMOUNT PICTURES

 +One of Crosby Post's top writers Leslie Gaylor+
 +signs in with his ever popular CROSBY CHATTER+

Hello to all members once again, these Christmas times certainly come round very quickly. This to me is good in one sense as it means we have our ration of Bing's annual festive songs and who can better the OLMASER in doing so. Certainly Bing is in great form on the new Reprise album I2 SONGS OF CHRISTMAS with Frank Sinatra and Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians. Bing's three solo tracks of THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS CANDLES, and IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN are very good indeed I think and the latter tune as sung by Bing is I think the outstanding track on the album; It is beautifully performed and sung as only 'the King of the disc business can do it. I have been overwhelmed by this recording, it is beautifully recorded with a lovely bass response backing Bing up. The way he puts over the lyric "Wonderful things that Santa Claus brings to good little boys and girls" really captivates me. This is magnificent Crosby vocalising that can never be bettered.

The two duets of WE WISH YOU THE MERRIEST and GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN are pretty good also, but I wish there were more Bing tracks on it and also that another Bing song had been chosen to replace SECRET OF CHRISTMAS, noting that Bing had done it superbly on the Phillips LP.

I also reckon that Bing is in top form on the American Reprise album AMERICA I HEAR YOU SINGING. Once again he has three solo tracks and he puts them over as only he can and although the songs are patriotic ones, Bing's performing of them is very pleasing.

A HOME IN THE MEADOW is I notesung to the tune of Greensleeves, and THIS IS A GREAT COUNTRY has Bing in stirring style. THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND is sung as in Singalong style, and as Frank Murphy said in the last issue, YOU NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD, a duet with Sinatra is also very nice.

Most of us have by now seen the ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOOD'S film, a general opinion of many people is, I note, that Bing won the honours - It was a long wait until Bing appeared, but how well worth it; He was great. I note the technical quality of the album presented the songs better than in the film soundtrack versions. The two tracks of MR BOOZE and DON'T BE A DO BADDER, I like very much.

It was great news that Bing has completed the Country and Western album called COUNTRY ALBUM - the songs are as follows and were given to me direct from the album's producer Simon Rady who is now and official at Capitol Record in Hollywood; - HELLO WALLS: WOLVERTON MOUNTAIN: CRAZY ARMS: OH LONESOME ME: BOUQUET OF ROSES: HEARTACHES BY THE NUMBER: SUNFLOWER: STILL: WABASH CANNONBALL: LITTLE BITTIE TEAR: and JEALOUS HEART:

Mr Rady's letter was sent to me just after Bing, Rosemary Clooney taped the first set of songs for the album tentatively titled DIXIELAND TWO BEAT. He said that Bing was in wonderful voice and if the songs from the other sessions turned out as well as the first, the album would be Bing's 'all time high'. Billy May made the orchestrations and Mr Rady said the material they were using was marvellous.

Like the Country and Western album we await with eagerness the release of these two Capitol's, I'm sure.

Just before the BBC Tuesday night "Music till Midnight" finished I was fortunate in having David Gell play Bing's STREETS OF LARADO for me in the Country and Western spot in the programme.

My old friend Derek Johnson of the New Musical Express wrote to me that he did the script for Sheila Tracy's noon time radio show on the Light called ANYTHING GOES - he gave Bing a plug re his 250 million record sales, that he had sold more than twice the total of Elvis and they then played Bing's recording of LAZY from HOLIDAY INN.

Well members, I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Leslie Gaylor.

=====oOo=====

+++++ Mike Kaptanis
ATTENTION ALL BING CROSBY AND JAZZ COLLECTORS: + 535 West 135 St
+++++ New York
+++++ N. Y. - U.S.A.
+++++

I am now taking orders for the musical soundtrack of Bing Crosby's first movie film THE KING OF JAZZ - I have in my collection the original 16" discs pressed by Columbia in excellent condition. The King of Jazz film was released by Universal pictures in 1930 and featured the Paul Whiteman orch with Bing Crosby and the Rhythm Boys, Eddie Lang, Joe Venuti and entire ensemble.

Crosby solo's on a never recorded tune, scat sings, and is featured on trumpet and by Trumbauer on C Melody Sax. The sound tracks of KING OF JAZZ have been taped via my 16" turntable and through a special filtering process I've eliminated practically all surface noise. I was able to put all material on one tape - 1,200 ft (two sides) and to make this extremely rare item of Crosbyana available to all the price is 15 Dollars which includes tape and postage (outside USA postage extra) Should you prefer your own tape send it to me and the price would then be 13 Dollars. The tape I use is made by Scotch and speed used to tape is 7 1/2 ips.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE OFFERS FOR THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK DISCS

PS - being as this sound track is from Bing Crosby's first film it is only appropriate that I also taped Bing's first record I'VE GOT THE GIRL a duet with Al Rinker with the Don Clark Orchestra. It's included on the tape at the end of the film soundtrack.

Send checks or money orders to me at the above address - European collectors add One Dollar, 50 cents for postage and handling.

Editors note - re the above add from Mike Kapstanis British Isles members can easily arrange to have the amount needed to purchase the tape sent by their bank - for your guidance - the British price would be £5-10-0 approx.
+-----+

ROY CHAPPELL NEXT IN "MEET THE MEMBERS" MARCH POST

25 year old Roy, a Manchester lad with a "touch of the Bing's" visited Wallsend in November whilst on a tour of North East clubs - and a pleasure it was to meet a real nice fellow - yours truly together with pal John Maughan escorted Roy on a day trip to Newcastle for lunch and a tour of the city - a day we all enjoyed - Roy will be featured in an exclusive article in March so till we meet again then Roy, it was nice meeting you at number 45 - also Angela, Michael and Janet say thank you for the nice gift of 'crackers' which really made their Guy Fawkes night go with a swing and a bang.
=====

RALPH HARDING IN DEFENCE OF KEN McMANUS

(Assuming that he ever needed defending ...!)

After Ken's article appeared in the POST, it was my intention to make a reply which, in the main, agreed with his comments. Unfortunately my copy did not reach the Editor and so my comments were not published in the POST with those of others. On reflection this is just as well because the lynching party would have been for two ...! I'm inclined to think that Ken intended his article to "stir things up" and judging from the comments printed in the last POST, it appears that he certainly succeeded. Scorn and abuse have been showered on him, his remarks have been described as "silly and quite untrue" and of course every jumped to defend the good names of their idols. And there were some excellent replies, notably those of Fred Reynolds and Keith Hyde.

However the fact remains that Ken's article was a well written, authoritative and common sense article written by an enthusiast who knows the recording business inside out and mainly "inside."

I don't think that the recording companies can be held entirely responsible for the degradation of popular music over the last few years. I think the fault lies mainly with the disc-jockeys, Denmark Street and the exploiters in the business. The recording companies are guilty of "cashing in" on a current trend but recording is their business and they are in business to make money. If a recording company failed to make a profit and failed to present their shareholders with a dividend, they wouldn't last very long in a competitive field.

It is a well-known fact in the recording business that issues of the better type of music are virtually subsidised by the enormous sales of current "pop" and by the better type of music, I include artists of the stature of Bing, Ella Fitzgerald, Armstrong, and jazz classics in general. For many years, particularly prior to microgroove recordings, the issues of operatic and symphonic records (which are understandably very expensive to produce) were subsidised by the heavy sales of the more popular type of music. It is to the credit of the recording companies that they still maintain a steady output of these recordings, knowing that they will barely cover the cost of production and in many cases they will make a loss.

I think a classic example was the issue of BING'S HOLLYWOOD, a set of 15 LP records. I can think of no other artist who has warranted such a large issue at one time. This issue was widely publicised and exploited by the Company concerned notwithstanding the fact that I would be very surprised if this set sold enough to clear the expenses involved. Now let us all be very honest ... how many of the readers of the POST dashed out and immediately ordered the full set?

A Crosby collector should be eternally grateful to the British Recording Companies if only because almost the entire Bing output has been released on British labels from the earliest days of his career. With very few exceptions the entire commercial out-put of Bing from 1926 to 1934 was issued by the recording companies and therefore available to the public. There is little wrong with the recording companies today. They still employ enthusiasts such as Ken McManus, Geoff Milne, others who concentrate on producing records of quality (not necessarily best sellers) for a discerning public. Many records of quality are still produced for a discerning, adult minority public and they must inevitably produce poor sales figures. It is to the credit of these companies that they continue this policy of satisfying a need and sacrificing profits to do so. Like the artistes they employ, they are in the business to make money.

Defend the recording companies ...? YES INDEED!



RING CROSBY in PARAMOUNT PICTURES

MOVIE REVIEW.....by LES PHYTHIAN

"A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT"

(BBC-1 Television. Sunday, 25th October)

A pleasant surprise, indeed, to find BBC Television serving up this 1949 Bing opus to enliven our Sunday evening's viewing. Mark Twain's classic story (original title, by the way, "A Yankee at the Court of King Arthur"), a lighthearted fantasy about the adventures of a young handyman from Bridgeport, Connecticut, who, following a blow on the head, awakens to find himself back in sixth century England amidst the Knights of the Round Table, is a Hollywood favourite. There had been two earlier screen treatments of the subject - a silent version in 1921, starring Harry C. Myers and Pauline Starke, and a 1931 'talkie' in which the late Will Rogers shared the lead with Maureen O'Sullivan.

For the Crosby version, opposite Rhonda Fleming, both Edmund Beloin's adaptation of the yarn and Tay Garnett's direction seemed competent and professional rather than inspired; nor can it be said that the Jimmy Van Heusen-Johnny Burke score represented anything like their best. Yet in spite of these reservations the film succeeded in its primary purpose - to entertain. Both "Once and For Always" (the main number) and "If You Stub Your Toe on the Moon" were very well sung by Bing - the former in particular - though the ditty which made the biggest impact was surely the simple but effective "Busy Doing Nothing", here performed with enviable gusto by that unlikely vocal trio, Bing, William Bendix and Cedric Hardwicke! Bill Bendix's portrayal of the anything-but-gallant Sir Sagramore and Cedric Hardwicke's bumbling, lovable King Arthur were exactly right. And, in the final analysis, the mere spectacle of Bing (as Hank Martin/Sir Boss) breezing his merry, inconsequential way through 'many towered Camelot' was a most attractive one, guaranteed to please. Which it did.

Not really a major Crosby film, as claimed in the RADIO TIMES, but a decidedly acceptable, happily diverting one for all that. And, just for the record, it should be noted that the movie was originally filmed in Technicolor.

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FINALLY - AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION - THE SOCIETY'S DISC & MOVIE CONSULTANT SUBMITS HIS CHOICE OF 'TOP TEN' FAVOURITE BING FILMS.....

The business of elimination for the purposes of this feature proved to be a fantastically difficult one, and I eventually wound up with a total of 20 titles all of which seemed to me more or less indispensable! Sadly, then, I have been obliged to pass over such delightful cinematic memories as College Humour, Here Is My Heart, Anything Goes (1936), Rhythm on the Range, Sing You Sinners, If I Had My Way, Holiday Inn, Road to Utopia, Riding High and Here Comes the Groom.

My final list, therefore, in chronological order, is as follows (and in the next issue of CROSBY POST I'll include a few comments - in the Ted Laker manner - to indicate my reasons for making this selection):-

THE BIG BROADCAST
WE'RE NOT DRESSING
MISSISSIPPI
PENNIES FROM HEAVEN
WAIKIKI WEDDING

EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN
RHYTHM ON THE RIVER
BIRTH OF THE BLUES
ROAD TO MOROCCO
HIGH SOCIETY

A happy Christmas to one and all - and the best of health and happiness throughout 1965.

LES PHYTHIAN.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Authors of THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY (THE BING CROSBY DISCOGRAPHY) are proud to announce that their latest publication (PART II) is now ready for distribution.

This publication was originally scheduled for issue last Summer but was unfortunately delayed due to unavoidable set-backs. However publication is now fully completed and copies are ready for distribution.

Part II of THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY follows the same pattern of PART I which was a complete sell-out. It consists of over 70 pages and apart from the features of PART I, it also contains photos of exceptionally rare labels. It is printed on good quality paper (Croxley White) and covers the period from 8th August 1934 to 1943. It is without any doubt, the most informative and comprehensive BING CROSBY discography yet produced and represents the combined work of a team of four expert Bing discographers who have been collating Crosbyana information over many years. The hundred and fifty readers, collectors and Crosbyana enthusiasts in the U.K. and all over the world who have received the previous publications in this series (THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY PART I and THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY The "V" disc Supplement) will have no need to be told what to expect when we say that it reaches an even higher standard than before. Like the first limited editions, it is solidly bound in BLUE and GOLD.

After publication of PART I, I received many comments about the price, such comments as RIDICULOUSLY CHEAP ... I ENCLOSE A DOLLAR, IT IS WORTH TEN TIMES THE PRICE ... THIS IS A BARGAIN IF THERE EVER WAS ONE ... In fact it was unanimously agreed that the price should have been more. Nevertheless we have agreed to issue PART II in limited edition form for the lowest possible cost. REMEMBER FRIENDS ... this is a LIMITED EDITION. Only 150 copies will be printed and it will be a case of first come, first served.

SEND FOR YOUR COPY NOW !!!

Send 6/6d inclusive of Post. (U.K. & Australia)
Send \$1.00 inclusive of Post (America, Canada)

Send ALL ORDERS AND REMITTANCES to: Ralph S. Harding,
Remember the price ... "Crosbyana" 6, Castledine Road,
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As in the case of our previous publications, ALL NET PROFITS are going to the BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY, and like our other publications, this work has been a labour of love ... for the benefit of us all. Help yourself and help your BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY.

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This is a LIMITED EDITION. Only 150 copies will be printed and serially numbered. Make sure that you are one of the 150 and send your remittance NOW.

 our Stateside gal.....
 PAT SULLIVAN presents her top rated AMERICAN NEWSLETTER

 BING CROSBY A SINGING ELECTRICIAN by James Bacon.

Bing Crosby who said he would never do it, is embarked on a weekly tv series - People are asking why Bing, a millionaire, would want to tackle such a grind. Crosby's answer is candid; "I can't work in movies anymore so why should'nt I try weekly tv?" "Can't work in movies?" "How many jobs are there for 60 year old crooners?" Bing asks. So come Monday evening, the newest Crosby production, starring the crooner comes to the little box in the living room.

In the new series, which precedes the successful Bing Crosby Productions, "BEN CASEY" Bing will play an electrical engineer with a wife and two daughters - Bing will also sing in the series. Producer Steven Hethers explained how you can do a family situation comedy featuring a singing electrical engineer. "I felt that a Bing Crosby without songs would be cheating the public" says Hethers. "True, Bing plays an engineer but one who is a frustrated singer dating back to his college days when he made a choice between show biz and electronics. "The songs are so integrated into the scripts that if Jimmy Stewart were to play the part, he would have to sing. "He even kids himself- even to the old time boo-boo-boo that was his early trademark.

There's a reason why Bing must keep busy - "A man in my position has a tiger by the tail. He just can't let go any old time. So many people become dependent upon him for their livelihood. If he quits, scores of jobs go down the drain. Each job represents a family" says Bing. Young Miss Faylen, a sophomore at Los Angeles Immaculate Heart High School was turned down for all of her class plays. Her first successful audition was for Bing's show. After the first five shows, Diane still does'nt quite fathom the idea that she is working with a living legend of show business

The power of the Crosby name - one of the most durable in movie box office lists - was so potent on Madison Avenue that the weekly show was bought by a sponser for 26 shows without a script or a pilot. Television shows usually are bought for only 13 weeks.

Neta Rosenberg, wife of Bing's longtime agent George Rosenberg, can be credited with Bing's entry into weekly tv. A few years ago Bing had been vehemently opposed to weekly tv exposure. "I sensed that Bing had reached that point in life where he would welcome a new challenge. I had already sold the sponser so I just had to sell Bing. My timing was right. He agreed provided we came up with a format he liked"

After nearly every comedy writer in Hollywood tried to develop format, Neta and an associate hit upon the one audiences will see. says Bing; "I liked what they showed me and I thought I'd have a go at it"

Bing has a schedule that roughly gives him three weeks off after three weeks work, this is done by shooting all scenes involving Crosby in lump form then the other actors pick up the other scenes when Bing is off golfing and fishing. Even when Bing works he's relaxed. His long time stand-in works the rehearsal shots while the lights and camera angles are being set and when the actual

scenes are shot, Bing comes on with his natural spontaneity and glibness and makes it look as if he has been rehearsing for hours.
 "I prepare hard for a role" says Bing "but I've never been one to go for all that standing around"

In 1960 Bing received a platinum record as FIRST CITIZEN OF THE RECORD INDUSTRY - an Industry spokesman says Bing has sold more records than any other star in history - more than 250 million. His biggest seller, and usually rated the top record of all time is WHITE CHRISTMAS, released in 1942 it still sells every holiday season and has long since passed the 20 million mark.

But Bing's most lucrative - based on royalties received is his SILENT NIGHT which also sells every Christmas. All royalties on this go to charity. Third is one he recorded in the early 30's written by his old buddy from Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys, Harry Barris, I SURRENDER DEAR. Comments Bing "Maybe this new TV series will help my record sales, look what tv did for Walter Brennan, he makes albums and he hasn't even got a one octave range".

from

DAILY NEWS - TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 1964 - TV - WHAT'S ON? Kay Gardella reports

CROSBY OUT OF THE MONEY IN ABC'S BIG RATING RACE

ABC'S premiere week got under way last night with the networks big money riding on two show business pros - Bing Crosby and George Burns. Both programmes proved conclusively that television is a big leveller and even the mighty can fall when caught in the mediums sand trap of mediocrity.

Having enjoyed an almost flawless show business record, the big question one is prompted to ask, after watching THE BING CROSBY SHOW, is why the wealthy star would allow himself to be identified with such throw away offering.

At best it's a lightweight family situation "comedy" (a word brutally misused in tv these days).

For an opener the programme rehashed the hackneyed plot of a married couple trying to retrieve that old feeling and discovering a few arthritic pains instead. It was sabotaged from the start by Bing's identification with "casualness" One got the impression that all were sauntering through their roles supported by the thought that the name of Crosby would carry them.

Beverly Garland was pitifully miscast as Bing's wife. To complement the easy going crooner, she underplays to a point of being unintelligible. Lablaby's were never Crosby's forte

.....END.....

QUICK QUIZ

It may be a little tough but whoever can answer this wins a brand new copy of Bing's new Reprise album THE 12 SONGS OF CHRISTMAS.

ON THE FIRST AND THE THIRD BUT IN THIRTY SIX YEARS NEVER THE SECOND. For example "Ho Hum", "Dearly Beloved" "Reaching for Someone" - WHY??

Send your solution to KEN MC MANUS, 6 BEECH GROVE, NEW MALDEN, SURREY

~~~~~

The following Bing discs are offered to the best bids by the clubs record bank - send your bids to OUTSIDE PROJECTS c/o BILL HALL.  
over £2 post free, under please add 3/- postage - winners notified.

\*closing date for bids - JANUARY 25th.

\*\*\*\*\*

Columbia's

- 1..5071..That's Grandma ; Rhythm Boys;vg
- 2..5161..Get outget under the moon;vg
- 3..2056..Thanks/Temptation;vg
- 4..BRUNSWICKS
- 5..01166..Out of nowhere/If you should ever need me;vg
- 6..01596..Thanks/Black moonlight;vg
- 7..01768;Goodnight lovely little lady/Once in a blue moon;g
- 8..01951;June in January/With every breath I take;vg
- 9..01993;It's easy to remember/Swanee river;ex
- 10.02054x.Adeste Fideles/Silent night;mint
- 11.02201..I have eyes/The funny old hills;vg
- 12.02270..Empty saddles/I'm an old cow hand;vg
- 13.02281..For love alone/I Never realised;ex
- 14.02315..Dancing in the dark/Blue of the night;vg
- 15.02320..Song of the islands/Aloha Oe;mint
- 16.02412..Sweet Leilani/The one rose;g
- 17.02443..Sweet Leilani/In a little hula heaven;mint
- 18.02444..Blue Hawaii/Sweet is the word for you;mint
- 19.02484..Can I forget you/Folks who live on the hill;mint
- 20.02492..Basin str blues/Bob white;ex(small chip-rim)
- 21.02577..Let's waltz for old times sake/Moon of Manakooora;mint
- 22.02640..My heart is taking lessons/On the sentimental side;ex
- 23.02653..Small fry/Mr Gallagher and Mr Sheen;mint
- 24.02663..Darling nellie gray/Swing low sweet chariot;g
- 25.02761..Ah sweet mystery of life/Sweethearts;mint
- 26.02779..S'posin/And the angels sing;ex
- 27.02807..Down by the old mill stream/Home on the range;ex
- 28.02806..My meloncholy baby/Just one more chance;mint
- 29.02805..I cried for you/Stardust;ex
- 30.02808..I surrender dear/Too you sweetheart;mint
- 31.02849..Gipsy love song/I'm falling in love with someone;mint
- 32.02900..If I had my way/Wrap your troubles in dreams;ex
- 33.02923..Take me back to my boots and saddle/Mexicali Rose;ex
- 34.02973..Too romantic/The moon and the willow tree;ex
- 35.02974..Sweet potato piper/18th and 19th on chestnut str;vg
- 36.03010..Tumbling tumble weeds/If I knew then;g
- 37.03019..Beautiful dreamer/You are my hearts delight;mint
- 38.03032..Meet the sun half way/Pessimistic character;ex
- 39.03073..Trade winds/Can't get Indiana off my mind;mint
- 40.03080..Dhoe shine boy/Dinah;vg
- 41.03087..Only forever/When the moon comes over madison sq;vg
- 42.03171..San antonio rose/Mr Meadowlark;mint
- 43.03289..Anniversary Waltz/Whistlers mother in law;vg
- 44.03313..Deep in the heart of texas/blues in the night;mint
- 45.03326..Humpty dumpty heart/Skylark;mint
- 46.03355..Sing me a song of the Islands/Blue shadows;mint
- 47.03382;Easter parade/Abraham;mint
- 48.03384..White Christmas/Start the New Year right;mint
- 49.03390..Singing sands of Alamosa/Conchita Marcheta, Lopez;ex
- 50.03410.Road to Morrocco/Moonlight becomes you;vg



29 when making bids please list only the number listed on the extreme left.

- 51.03418..Girl of my dreams/Mary's a grand old name;ex
- 52.3510...Hello mom/Poinciana;mint
- 53.03528..San fernado valley/Riding down the canyon;vg
- 54.03533..Amor amor/I'll be seeing you;vg
- 55.03534..Swinging on a star/Going my way;ex
- 56.03539..Long ago and faraway/Is you is or is you aint my baby;mint
- 57.03547..The day after forever/It could happen to you;mint
- 58.03567..Accentuate the positive/Theres a fellow waiting in Poughkeepsie;vg
- 59.03587..Baia/You belong to my heart;mint
- 60.003603..Would you/My mothers waltz;ex
- 61.03604..Anybody's spring/Welcome to my dreams;ex
- 62.03634..Good good good/Along the nevajo trail;mint
- 63.03635..Bells of St Mary's/I'll take you hone again Kathleen;mint
- 64.03647..Strange music/I love you;mint
- 65.03651..Did your mother come from Ireland/Where the river shannon flows;mint
- 66.03672..All by myself/You keep coming back like a song;mint
- 67.03708..Oh what a beautiful morning/People will say we're in love;mint
- 68.03731..Day by day/Prove it by the things you do;mint
- 69.03744..My baby said yes/Your socks don't match.mint
- 70.03753..Mc Namaras band/Dear old Donnie Gall;ex
- 71.03775..Gal in Calico/Oh but I do;mint
- 72.03782..When Irish eyes are smiling/Danny boy;mint
- 73.03783..Spaniard that blighted my life/Alexanders ragtime band;ex
- 74.03800..Pretending/Gotta get me somebody to love;vg
- 75.03801..Country style/As long as I'm dreaming;vg
- 76.03809..Show business/Anything you can do;mint
- 77.03813..Feudin and a fussin/South America take it away;vg
- 78.03882..Gayway bay/My girls an Irish girl;mint
- 79.03889..Dance ballerina dance/Laroo, laroo, lili bolero;ex
- 80.03929..Adeste fideles/Silent night;vg
- 81.03932..Kiss in your eyes/Friendly mountians;ex
- 82.03938..Lullaby/Where my caravan has rested;mint
- 83.03982..At the flying W/A hundred and sixty acres;mint
- 84.04035..Far away places/Tara ta-lara, ta,lar;mint
- 85.04098..Riders in the sky/Carles hands;ex
- 86.04345..Here comes Santa claus/12 days of Christmas;ex
- 87.04454..Have I told you lately that I love you/Quicksilver;ex
- 88.04420..Dear hearts and gentle people/Mule train;mint
- 89.04534..Home cooking/Katrina;vg-small chips on run in)
- 90.04613..High on the list/Life is so pecualiar;ex
- 91.04900..Isle of Innisfree/At last at last;ex
- 92.04970..Just a little lovin/Tillthe end of the world;g
- 93.05410..Stranger in paradise/Who gave you the roses;mint
- 94.05486..Angel bells/Theres music in you;mint
- 95.05574..Lazy bones/Easy str;ex(Gary Crosby@Louis Armstrong)
- 96.05760..Love in a home/In the good old summertime;mint
- 97.Capitol I4645..True love/Well did you evah;mint
- 98. IO"Brunswick album JUST.FOR YOU;ex.
- 99. " " " EL-BINGO;ex
- 100. " " " SOME FINE OLD CHESTNUTS;ex

Members are invited to advertsie their wants and disposals in these columns of Crosby Post each issue - rates for adverts can be found on page I8 of this issue; Adverts for the next issue should reach the editor by Febuary Ist.

Well here we are again, still alive and kicking and ready to do battle - the nose is a bit battered but I still intend to carry on smiling. I've managed to collect a fair ammount of replies to an article that was intended to prove that the recording companies do a 100% job in promoting any Bing discs they possess. Yet most of you forgot the main point - BING, and went up in arms about how we make our fortunes etc etc out of the poor misguided public. For example Fred Reynolds blew his top at me in the last issue - yet he never mentioned Bing's name in the whole of his letter. As for his asking if I was proud of what the record companies have done for popular music - the answer is YES. I note that you are trying to put me on the spot by only allowing me to stick to popular music, by that I presume I must omit any mention of classical music, even some of those are million sellers - so what is popular music?. Of course what Fred is getting at is the present trend towards the groups such as the Rolling Stones etc, it may come as a surprise to some, but these lads and others like them, may not be musically correct, but they work hard and know full well that this is only a passing phase and won't last forever - this augument has gone on for years, even in the 30's Bing was often criticised for the way he bent the notes to suit himself. It's rather comical to look back on some of those old record reviews, the same men who panned Bing as just another crooner, today regard him as the greatest, and so it should be.

As for the millions that are made out of the poor misguided public, I suppose most people are out for any profit that they can make, at least we can show by results what we can do with our profits. Manufacture of records is not the hit and miss business it was in the 20's. Even since the war fantastic advances have been made in record production. The advent of the LP record and Hi Fi equipment was a revolutionary to the record collector as the jet engine was to the aircraft industry. One has just got to visit a modern recording studio to see that that the companies spend vast sums to try to produce as perfect a sound as possible for your benefit. It does not stop there either. after recording, the record must be produced - that means more equipment. In the last five years even this has changed. possibly the best record presses are made in Sweden, and they cost a fortune. When a factory has a couple of hundred presses like these at some 5 to 10 thousand pounds each, the money has to come from somewhere, so can you blame us for producing records of possibly little artistic merit but sell in large quantity. One must remember that we make records of just about everything under the sun. From childrens records to Shakespeare, from Jazz to the Classics, Irish, Welsh, Scottish folk music, yes Frank even Tynside songs "The muckin' Geordies Byre" for example.

When one realises that every year some 2,000 singles are issued PLUS 2,600 L.P.'s, mostly of either jazz or the classics in the case of the LP's, then you will perhaps realise that we do not only cater for the pop fans but for EVERYONE. If it's of any interest, some 85 million records are sold in this country every year. The bulk being singles and EP's, to the tune of some 60 million, the remainder being LP's, so I would not call 25 million LP's pandering to the poor misguided public, would you. When one thinks of HMV recording the New Testament on 12 LP's, it makes you shudder to think of the cost, but though the sales may be small, that wonderful set was made available because of the efforts of a company that really does try to please everyone.

Decca issue 15 LP's dedicated to Bing, EMI issue sets by Ella Fitzgerald CBS issue sets of Eddie Lang (one track by Bing never reviewed in Post) I could go on all night, any catalogue will prove at a glance that the

amount of good class recordings far outweighs the amount of popular music available in this country. No company could exist by issuing only high class records. After all the pop sales help to subsidise the issue of the better class of record, but of lower sales potential, but these will remain in the catalogue for years, while the pop record drops dead after only a few weeks. A good example of this being OH FOR THE WINGS OF A DOVE record about 1930 it attained a million sales only last year, having been available all those years without being deleted - Have I made my point?

I note with interest the remarks on poor old auntie BBC - who to my mind do a tremendous job catering for all tastes against tremendous odds. Jack wants a Bing programme, the Sinatra society want likewise, I would like a Louis Armstrong or Fats Waller programme and so on - when you think of the number of artists available I'd hate to be a programme planner. But let's be fair to old auntie, old Bing ran on for weeks on Roundabout, and again on an early morning show only recently. You may be interested to know that at the time of writing, in the past year some 2,500 Bing titles have been played by POOR OLD AUNTIE on STEAM RADIO, plus various items on Luxemburg, ATV, BBCTV, the final total must be rather hefty.

Myself I would rather members concentrate on building up a greater membership of the club - then, when we have a stronger membership, start to worry about plugs on radio. If all the present members, some 300 I think Frank tells me, which is pretty bloody to my way of thinking - if you all just introduced just one new face to the club, it would be a step in the right direction. I think the present attitude is really pathetic, how about a little more get up and go from a few more people instead of leaving it all to Jack, Frank, Bill Hall, Bob Roberts, Ted Laker and a few other stalwarts. If it would help I am willing to donate any Reprise Bing Crosby album to the first five members who can produce a new Bing fan for the club - If anyone excels and introduces more than one new member I shall think of some special prize - How about it fellows and gals, make 1965 a really big club year - to qualify for the above prizes, send your introductions and membership sub to me and I will forward them direct to Frank after noting the winners. My address is 6, Beech Grove, New Malden, Surrey.

This reminds me, certain people object to my gifts to the club for prizes. It appears that Ken does this to gain popularity etc etc etc - I think that as Frank knows me better than most I'll let him reply to this stupid and unfair comment on myself - the balls in your corner Frank - I don't have to make these offers your know...I could sit back, read Crosby Post and write critical letters just for the fun of it. Those remarks hurt me very much - behind the scenes my activity must have been worth several hundreds of pounds in cash - .... do you wish my aid to cease? - the sleeves in this issue cost about £45 alone so at least I have tried.

As my heading says - STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER - the second line reads RIGHT FROM THE HEART and that is the way my offer of records to Frank and the club have always been made - NOT for my gain, but in the hope that I may gain another admirer for Bing.

Have a really swinging Christmas everyone and every good wish for a very happy New Year.....Ken Mc Manus



It seems to be only a short while ago that I had the pleasure of introducing Buddy Cole to members through Crosby Post. Bing had put me in touch with Buddy who kindly made a tape recording which amounted to him telling the highlights of his career and his life. My wife Mavis and myself were later able to spend a Sunday afternoon chatting with Buddy in a London hotel.

Buddy has always been keen on recording in all aspects and was one of the first people to own a tape recorder - his skill with a recording machine has been largely responsible for those delightful Buddy Cole backings to many of Bing's more recent radio shows. He also accompanied Bing on a number of records, starting I believe with the Autobiography set in 1954.

Buddy's other love has been the theatre pipe organ, he began as a cinema organist when still at school until he finally ended up with the huge pipe organ which was completed in his own home studio about two years ago. Earlier this year he issued an LP on the American Warner Bros label called BUDDY COLE MODERN PIPE ORGAN - it turned out to be a triumph of technical talent with the sound of the 27 ranks of his pipe organ captured to perfection, and even multi recorded to obtain an extra difficult part of the arrangement which could not possibly be played by one organist at one time. This autumn has seen the release of his second pipe organ album for American Warner. Unfortunately this has not yet reached our shores although it was originally planned to make an album of songs connected with the Autumn season.

Buddy has made many great records, with orchestra, electronic and pipe organs, piano, along with backing a number of stars on records, the most obvious coming to mind being, Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney and Phil Harris. The records will remain as a tribute to a great musician. The memories will be of a man who took time off from his busy schedule to tell his story and bring a little extra of the Crosby scene to readers of Crosby Post, and indeed readers of the Cinema Organ Society Journal, who were also treated to a long series dealing with the Buddy Cole career as an organist.

It came as a great shock to me when a letter arrived for me on Nov 12th from Ian Sutherland, editor of the Cinema Organ Society Newsletter, telling me that he had just received an airmail letter from Tom B' Hend, editor of The Cipher, an American organ magazine, containing the sad news that Buddy Cole passed away on November 5th, 1964, after suffering a further heart attack.

We send our deepest sympathy to his widow and family..

Anyone wishing to send a personal note of sympathy to Mrs Cole, can reach her at 4905, Gentry Avenue, North Hollywood, California, USA.

.....STAN WHITE.....

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ROBIN IS MY KINDA FILM

by percy harding-----

\*\*\*\*\*

Apart from IT'S A MAD MAD WORLD now showing at the Queens Cinerama, Newcastle upon Tyne, which is undoubtedly my choice as best film of the year. The new Warner Bros release ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS, will go down in my records as a marathon viewing experience of all time.

I saw it three times at the Haymarket Cinema, Newcastle, twice at the

Apollo, Byker, three times at the Colliseum, Whitley Bay - and lived practically every minute of it.

Produced by Frank Sinatra, it was extremely well made, with marvellous sets. No end of trouble must have been experienced to get the vintage twenties background.

Up to the arrival of Bing, Sinatra and his clan plus the delightful Peter Faulk, had kept this 20th century version of the Robin Hood tale coasting along. Then it happened. Mr Croz made his appearance and by doing so, turned this lavish production into one of the best musicals made for many a year.

The songs began with Peter Faulk and a chorus of the 'southside' hoods singing ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL, then Dean Martin's pool table duet with Sinatra ANY MAN WHO LOVES HIS MOTHER, followed by Sammy Davis's terrific gun toting BANG BANG, but when Frank and Dean joined up with Bing for STYLE - it was real style. DO BADDER gave us glimpses of the Crosby we knew so well. What a lot the current pop singers could learn. Sinatra let out with a big production number CHICAGO, then the highlight, MR BOOZE, when the nightclub speakeasy revolves into a mission for drunks. Here Bing heads the way with his best number since HIGH SOCIETY'S, THAT'S JAZZ. His voice, deep and great. One could'nt help feel a tingle of delight.

On leaving the Apollo the second time I heard someone say; "Bing's as great as ever - the best film I've seen for months.

How right he was.....PH.

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time now to tune into -----

BILL HALL - our hard working OUTSIDE PROJECTS expert -----

=====

Dear friends,

In an attempt to try and make the OUTSIDE PROJECTS side of the Society pay it's way we are going to try out a new scheme for selling photographs from now on. Members will now be able to purchase any of the photos listed in the clubs lists on a "look first" "pay later" basis.

To explain further - if you would like to see a certain photo before buying it, write to me and I will send the photo/s to you on approval for a period of one week - after which you can either send the cash for the photo or return it

A number of members appear to prefer the larger photos - size 10" X 8" - well from now on you can order this size of photo, the price per photo being 3/-.

Well there you have it friends, hope I've made that clear to you and if anyone wants any further information on this or any other "Outside Projects" offer, I'll always be glad to hear from you.

In closing may I take this opportunity to wish all of my friends and all the members of the Crosby Circle the merriest of Christmases and a very happy and healthy 1965.....Bill Hall.....

=====

When writing to the clubs officers - please always remember to extend the courtesy of a stamped, self addressed envelope - this thought is always very much appreciated.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your views makes  
the news

\* this months newsy comments come from club  
 \* members, Kathleen Golder, Arnold Dix, Betty  
 \* Hale; Peter Wilson and Mary Hughes.  
 \*

Kathy writes from 110 Shell Rd, Lewisham, London SE13;

Well once again another much looked forward to club meeting has come and gone and once more it was a great pleasure to see all 'the old familiar faces' and quite a few new ones - all in an atmosphere of BING. I think it is a great credit to the clubs officers that there are still so many of the old members in the club. Therefore I and I am sure I speak for all members can never thank all concerned, too much, for keeping the club flag flying.

Anyway Frank, will you please print this thank you to Kit and Jack for having us on September 18th., for their wonderful hospitality and all.

By the way as far as I can trace, I joined the club in 1957 and I have most of my Crosby Posts - it is on looking back through the many issues we have had that one realises just how very much it has improved, in the printing, the lay out, and even in the articles, not to mention the pictures,

KG.

Arnold writes from 67 Stanton Street, Derby;

May I offer the following possible explanation for the divergence of opinion over certain Bing record quality - even at it's best record playing equipment is only a compromise, and it is possible that the sound of discs can vary according to the record player, room accoustics, and other factors, including our own state of mind and hearing (one expert has stated that Hi Fi is at its best when the listener is inebriated') for instance, records which I thought were rather poor, have improved beyond all recognition with a change of equipment.

Here's another angle, is it possible that present day recording techniques by and large, don't lend themselves kindly to Bing's voice? A.D.

Betty writes together with husband Jack from 29 Well Terr, Heybridge, Essex.

It was a lovely surprise to read in Crosby Post that we had won the first prize in the last club raffle - then we waited for the postman, and am glad to say that the album arrived safely. I think the best song is THE HUKILAU SONG, Bing seems to really be enjoying himself as he sings it. I also heard him singing MR. ROOSTER.

I also heard him singing MR BOOZE on Radio Caroline the other day and someone asked to hear him sing THE ANNIVERSARY WALTZ but as they didn't have Bing's version, they played his COOL COOL COOL OF THE EVENING.. B.H.

Peter writes from 81 Union Str, Middlesbrough.

In his article Crozstalk, Jack Manners asked for members to write into the BBC to request Bing numbers - well I have written in twice for MR BOOZE and so far I think the BEC must be tectotal, however I did hear Two Shillelagh O' Sullivan and Busy Doing Nothin on Housewives Choice last week.

There seems to be mixed feelings on other artists doing Bing's songs - and personally I am in favour of this, and here's my reason, The "Old Groaner" has



always been my number one singer, and always will be. However we must be honest and admit he is no longer in the limelight, therefore whenever another vocalist sings a Bing favourite - who do we think of straight away?....P.W.  
=====

Mary closes this months letterbox with a few lines from 84 Hartington Str, Moss Side, Manchester I4.

Thank you for the Crosby Post recieved last week. I purchased the album from the new Robin and The Seven Hoods last week also and thought it was excellent and after seeing the film really enjoyed it - The scene in the film where Bing sings MR BOOZE with the othernight club members was marvellous, the slick way the change over took place. I also enjoyed Bing singing DON'T BE A DO-BADDER with the children, it has a lot of philosophy in that tune. I think Bing's voice is marvellous for his age, you can hear every word he sings, not like the noises of today, I think they are one big publicity stunt.  
.....

Our thanks to the above members for their welcome comments - owing to pressure of space, due to an extra large of material arriving for this issue, it is regretted that letterbox has had to be shortened this time - nevertheless we still welcome your comments in any shape or form for publication consideration in the Post.

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+-----+
+ WHAT'S YOUR FANCY + by +
+ ***** OR ***** + Fred +
+ AN APPLE A DAY + Reynolds +
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Un expected support for my views on the current "pop" scene (see September Post) came on Sunday September 13th, when ABC/TV presented a satirical play by Clive Exton. "The trial of Do Fancy" variously described as a "black" and "sick" comedy. The play tells of the surgeon-proprietor of a fashionable nursing home who is in the dock on a charge of murder. He is accused of causing the death of a patient by amputating both legs below the knees for financial gain. The defence claims that the amputation was performed to cure a psychological disorder caused by being too tall and that Dr Fancy's laudable aim was to restore self confidence to an abnormally tall man. Evidence during the trial discloses that in the previous year nearly 200 similar operations were performed successfully by the doctor. The pattern emerges; any excessively tall man shopping at Penders outfitters would find no trousers to fit him (in fact Pender, store-owner and trouser manufacturer has built up a lucrative export trade by supplying trousers to pygmies) The shopper becomes angry and embarrassed by the situation is forcibly removed by the attendants to the clinic of Dr Carwell, a psychiatrist, who persuades the unfortunate victim that he is suffering from a neurosis for which, in due time, Dr Fancy operates. The adjusted patient is thus enabled to shop happily at Penders store thereafter. It is also revealed that the manufacturer, the psychiatrist and the surgeon each have one third share in the business interest of the other two. The jury, without retiring, acquit the defendant and as they file out of the box are shown as being all of short stature and obviously previous patients of Dr Fancy. The final scene shows the doctor towering over them as he recieved their congratulations.

Continued on page 36

This macabre and grisly comedy is described as "a satire on life of the 1960's" and there can be no doubt that with his extravagant and bizarre ideas the author was quite serious in his intention of showing the extremes to which people can be pressed in order to be "average" and "conformist" and how a very low common level is thus maintained.

To apply the allegory to the "pop" scene of today requires very little imagination. All one need to do is to substitute "disc jockey" for Dr Fancy, "radio and T/V" for the middleman psychiatrist and "record company" for the trouser manufacturer and it will readily be seen how standards and critical appreciation are destroyed; how the customer is persuaded to fit the profit making material and how the power groups and financial interests will contrive to sell anything. The jury of course represents the brain washed, conditioned uncritical audience who scream and applaud the slickly operating disc jockey for designing them to fit the trousers. You see how easy it is to interchange the situations - the analogy is so startlingly accurate that I would not be at all surprised if Mr Exton had not this specific parallel as his inspiration.

For all who care about human dignity and intelligence the prevailing fashion of shrieks, shouts and mass adolescent hysteria is a depressing spectacle. This ugly exploitation of young children by powerful financial groups dumping daily loads of rubbish on to them would be more easily acceptable if it were only a small part of the scene; unfortunately it is almost ALL the scene. It would be fatuous, of course, to suggest that these teen-agers would appreciate music that is too complex or profound but there need is for good music which is also readily understood. If, instead, they buy rubbish it is not their fault.

In an article appearing on page 22 of this issue Ralph Harding states several facts with which I agree; Ralph and I, however, reach very different conclusions from these facts. He says that the recording companies are in business to make money. Precisely, and this is the only premise from which a proper understanding can follow. Ralph says that the better type of music is subsidised by the sales of "pop" yet as recently as October 6th Sir Joseph Lockwood who is chairman of E.M.I. the world's biggest record firm said, "We write off the cost of a classical record for the first year and expect to get our money back over four years" This does'nt sound to me as though much subsidy is needed but even if it was we have been told this so often that the advertisements and goodwill value must be well worth it to the record company. Surely Ralph is aware that many large firms produce a "prestige" product knowing they will be lucky to clear expenses yet remain quite happy in the knowledge that it well serves its purpose. If the record companies produced only "pop" discs they could hardly justify their existence even to themselves. I do not know how much, if anything is lost on classical recordings but I do know that in 1963 alone the receipts from "pop" records amounted to 23 $\frac{3}{4}$  million pounds. I should think that they could afford to drop a little of that without worrying overmuch about the effect on shareholders dividends.

Of course as Ralph says, quality records are there for a discerning public. My complaint is that the industry is commercially geared to manufacture, promote and sell rubbish in huge quantities to the undiscerning public with onformed minds, a policy specifically inspired only by the profit motive. This is why most mediums of entertainment are swamped by beat groups and gimmick vendors whose sole aim is to make a "hit" record. The record companies powerful AOR men (artists and repertoire) strongly influence the scene when they choose the

artists, the songs, the musicians and the way those musicians will play. Ralph suggests that record companies "cash in" on current trends. They do much more than that. Their A. & R. men with the aid of the disc jockeys create trend and fashion among teenagers and thrive on chart entries rather than on artistic achievement. It is, moreover, common knowledge how the charts can be manipulated to affect sales and artists bookings. A place in the "charts" brings more and better paid bookings for an artist and it is well known that a record often sells better because it is in the top ten.

When Ralph attaches blame, justifiably in my opinion to disc jockeys let us remember that these same disc jockeys have lucrative commercial contracts with the record companies - Jack Jackson, Peter Murray, Alan Freeman (all Decca) David Jacobs (EMI) Jimmy Saville (Decca?) Brian Mathew to name but a few. Incidentally can there be a softer way to earn a luxurious living? Oh for a relentless, unctuous smile. Perhaps it is jealousy that makes them my "bete noire" One of my saddest laughs was when one of these gentlemen, in a week of calamitous events which included a plane disaster, political upheaval and a strike, brightly announced "The big news of the week is that there are two in at number three"

There are other practices in the recording industry which are thoroughly reprehensible. The ethical aspect of an A. & R. man putting his own, his friends or relatives composition on the 'B' side of a hit record is utterly indefensible. The 'B' side of course receives the same amount of royalties as the recording which mainly sells the record. Although the practice was publicly exposed by T.W.3. it still continues. Even if the 'B' side was as good or even better than 'A' side the practice is ethically wrong and the like would never be tolerated in a respected profession. 'Cover' jobs too, are unattractive features of the industry. A "hit" record is made, say in America, and an almost carbon copy is rushed out by someone in this country before the foreign original arrives. It happens in reverse too but this cannot justify a shabby practice.

You will understand then why I get worried when a collector of Ralph's standing writes "there is little wrong with the recordings industry today" The truth of the matter as it strikes me is that if the pressure, like Goebbels' propaganda is powerful enough it will be effective. When collectors of long experience fail to observe what is happening around them it shows just how effective. I'm sure Ralph had his tongue well in check when he asked if readers "dashed out and immediately ordered" the full set of 15 LP's, all of which were re-issues. I'm even more sure that every reader wishes that he or she was in the enviable financial position of being able to do so. I confess that it took me several months to get them all - - - - - Finally, a short questionnaire;

1. Can you tell one 'beat' group from another?
2. Do you want to?
3. Are you happy with the present "pop" scene?
4. Do you moo with the herd?
5. Are you qualified for jury service?

Anyone truthfully answering "Yes" to all these questions is entitled to wear a pair of short trousers..... F.R.

Contributors are reminded that all material for Crosby Post must be sent DIRECT to the Editor to reach him not later than the 1st of the month prior to issue - Deadline for the March Post material is therefore FEBRUARY 1st.



pick-up handled by Frank Murphy

Hi Collectors; \*\*\*\*Excellent: \*\*\*Very Good: \*\*Fair: \*Poor:

Once again the action centres around REPRISE who this time have given us some great Bing via THE 12 SONGS OF CHRISTMAS - Reprise 12" LP - R2022

The stars on this album are FRANK SINATRA, FRED WARING'S PENNSYLVANIANS and of course DER BINGLE. I will apply my star rating only to the tracks which concern collectors of Crosbyana - but my own opinion of Frank Sinatra on this album is one of disgust - how an artist of his high calibre can turn out such a low standard on so many numbers on one album is deplorable in my eyes - he makes the mistake of applying his odd diction to lines like "I heard'd the bells on Christmas day" the word "heard'd being heavily emphasised on the 'd' and quite honestly it just does 'nt come off - Frankie never could sing Christmas numbers of course and on this album, like the essentially 'Country' album AMERICA. I HEAR YOU SINGING he again proves that for songs which require a slow feeling for the lyrics he is way out of touch - stick to Basic Frankie!!! Give him a fast number like THAT'S GOOD, for example and he comes into his own as the really swinging songster he is - but for all round interpretation of just about any kind of song, he falls into the same category that all other singers come into - it's been the essence of Crosby for his - his ability to sing every type of song with EQUAL ability. I'm afraid Frank Sinatra's presence on this album is seriously going to affect sales of some of Bing's great Christmas vocalising this year, Now to the title list,

Side One:

WHITE CHRISTMAS.....Fred Waring  
\*\*\*\* IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.....Bing Crosby  
\*\* GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN.....Frank Sinatra/Bing Crosby  
AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS.....Frank Sinatra  
WHEN ANGELS SANG OF PEACE.....Fred Waring  
THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY.....Frank Sinatra

Side Two:

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.....Frank Sinatra  
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR.....Fred Waring  
\*\*\*\* THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS.....Bing Crosby  
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.....Fred Waring  
\*\*\* CHRISTMAS CANDLES.....Bing Crosby  
\*\* WE WISH YOU THE MERRIEST.....Bing Crosby/Frank Sinatra

My top favourite track on the album is SECRET OF CHRISTMAS and although I appreciate the comments by Jack Manners and Les Gaylor on the original Philips LP version which I agree is a tremendous version and one of my particular favourites, I am pleased that Bing has again done this tune, even if for the very same reason that Jack says the first one failed - this Reprise showcase will bring it further out that the first film version did, and that's all the better - on this new version, which incidentally I think is beautifully recorded and much crisper than the first one, note the drive and the power in the Crosby voice on the closing few lines - Der Bingle is singing in tremendous form these days - he's never sounded so good for years.

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN is a peach of a number - real easy on the ear, when I played this album for Jack Shaw at home recently Jack had no difficulty in naming this his number one track - when you listen carefully to the Crosby voice caressing the lyrics like he did in years gone by, you'll have to concede that there's much truth in the closing comments I made on page 38 - back now? To continue then with the final Crosby solo, CHRISTMAS CANDLES, this number was somewhat dissapointing to me, I know it's Bob Roberts favourite, but to me it just doesn't come off entirely, I like it a lot but I'm afraid I'd gone too far overboard on the previous two numbers - Bing sounds a little too strained on the high notes for me, but I think I've scored it okay. The two duets WE WISH YOU THE MERRIEST and GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN are only fair - both artists can do better, much much better, WELL DID YOU EVAH, for example, but of the two I'd select GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN for with a snappy arrangement it pips the former. Affording suburb musical backing vocally is Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians, and there is no complaint from yours truly here, great great great right the way through - what a pity Frank Sinatra has to mar the excellent chorus work on THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY with an atrocious vocal.

Also from Reprise is a Christmas single of two tracks from the above album; REPRIS SINGLE R20352 "CHRISTMAS CANDLES"/"IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN"

If you can't afford the album then the single is a must for you, but no self respecting Crosby fan would want to miss Bing's terrific new version of THE SECRET OF CHRISTMAS which is only available on the I2" album.

To wind up this review here is a list of all the albums etc reviewed in Crosby Post in the last year;- To help with your Christmas Record Shopping

"I WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS" Warner Bros I2" album WM8136  
 "DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR" Capitol single CLI5326  
 "HOLIDAY IN EUROPE" Brunswick EP OE9504  
 "TWO FAVOURITE STORIES BY BING CROSBY" Brunswick I2" album LAT8550  
 "THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED" Reprise single R20217  
 "MERRY CHRISTMAS" Brunswick I2" Album LAT8556  
 "RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS" I2" Reprise album R6106  
 "RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS" Reprise EP R30018  
 "THE BOYS AND THE GIRLS" Ace of Hearts I2" Album AH69  
 "SOUTH PACIFIC" Reprise I2" album F2018 (Bing sings YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME)  
 "FINIAN'S RAINBOW" Reprise I2" album F2015 (Bing sings Something sorta Grandish)  
 "ROBIN AND THE 7 HOODS" I2" Reprise Album R2021

If you've still got some money left here are a few that revieve plenty of plays in your reviewers collection and are highly recommended for happy listening

Brunswick LAT I2" album 8044 WHITE CHRISTMAS  
 Brunswick LAT I2" album 8217 NEW TRICKS - with the late, great Buddy Cole  
 Brunswick LAT I2" album 8216 A CHRISTMAS SING WITH BING - see Croz-talk-page 6  
 Warner Bros I2" album WM4021 JOIN BING AND SING ALONG - highly recommended

Until March, happy collecting,

Frank.

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 Your next date with Crosby Post is March 15th 1965 - Don't miss it --- bye now.

